

Munn Tavern
Valley Road
Montclair, Essex County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-372

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
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Munn Tavern
Valley Road
Montclair, Essex County, New Jersey

Owner: The Trustees of the Free Public Library,
Montclair

Date of Erection: 1802-1808

Architect:

Builder: Joseph Munn

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Main unit two and one-half;
wing two stories

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame
construction, siding

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel on main
unit, pitch on wing

Historical Data:

This structure was erected by Joseph Munn on land purchased from Simon Crane about the time the turnpike was cut through to Newark in 1808. It was apparently his second tavern for Doremus says Munn opened his tavern in 1802 and after the turnpike was completed he built and moved to what is now known as

the Mansion House. This was evidently the house in question. It stood on the corner of Valley Road and Church Street and was moved to make room for the present library.

In its day the tavern was a famous hostelry. It served as the headquarters of the Masonic members of the community and the Bloomfield Lodge was organized in it. After it ceased to be used as a tavern it was a branch of the public school for several years and then was occupied by the Montclair Library. Through funds donated by Andrew Carnegie a new library building was built and the tavern was moved to the rear of the lot. It is now used as the parish house of the Swedish church.

According to the Essex County court records, the property passed from Almada Lunn, the widow of Joseph, to Andrus B. Howe in 1867. Howe sold to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Society in 1868. From then the Trustees to the Free Public Library purchased in 1899.

Bibliography:

"Early Montclair -- 1879" Montclair Times
October 26, 1929

Borrens, Philip Reminiscence of Montclair
Montclair, 1908

Essex County Court Records and material
collected by Frank Gaufield, Essex County
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DW 8/20/27